

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-14 have been amended and claims 15-19 have been added. Claims 1-14 have been amended to address informalities. Support for the subject matter of claims 15-19 can be found at least in original claims 1-14. Thus, no new matter has been added.

I. 35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with antecedent basis requirements. Claims 1-14 have been amended to address informalities. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-14 comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. 35 U.S.C. §103 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,040,584 to Liu et al. (hereinafter "Liu") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,101,266 to Laskowski et al. (hereinafter "Laskowski"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Liu and Laskowski each fail to disclose "determining locations of the sampling points in the first and second dimensions," as recited by claim 1, and as similarly recited in claim 9.

Liu discloses a method and apparatus for detecting damaged currency. The method disclosed by Liu requires measuring the light transmitted through and reflected from the notes (col. 3, line 61 - col. 4, line 5). The measured light intensities are then used to create a disorder curve (col. 3, lines 49-52). Liu then discloses analyzing the disorder curve in order to determine the extent of damage to a bill. In particular, once the disorder curve is measured, the length of the disorder curve is determined and compared to the length of the disorder curve of a reference bill. (col. 4, lines 43-47). For example, Liu specifically states in col. 4,

lines 64-67, "as a bill becomes more damaged the disorder curve will become either smoother and thus shorter or rougher and thus longer as compared to an undamaged reference bill."

Once the lengths of the disorder curves are measured and compared to the reference curve, a comparator generates an evaluation factor corresponding to the damage degree of the bill.

(col. 8, lines 18-46). Fig. 17 does not depict a plot of the light intensities of a bill's sampling points, as the Office Action alleges, but rather depicts a plot of a single evaluation factor for each of 40 1000-yen bills. (col. 14, lines 16-20). Liu's evaluation factors do not correspond to the sampling points of the present disclosure. Thus, as can be seen from Fig. 17, Liu does not disclose "determining locations of the sampling points in the first and second dimensions," as recited by claim 1, and as similarly recited by claim 9.

Laskowski also fails to disclose "determining locations of the sampling points in the first and second dimensions," as recited by claim 1. Therefore, Laskowski fails to at least cure Liu's above-stated deficiency.

Laskowski discloses an apparatus and method for providing an indication of a type and/or a condition of a note passing through the apparatus (See Abstract). However, Laskowski also fails to disclose "determining locations of the sampling points in the first and second dimensions," as recited by claim 1, and as similarly recited by claim 9.

Further, even if Laskowski is interpreted as disclosing measuring the intensities of light from sampling points on a bill, and even if Liu is interpreted as disclosing plotting those points in a two-dimensional graph, the combination would not achieve the same result as the present disclosure. In particular, Laskowski fails to disclose detecting double feed of sheet-like objects by plotting sampling points and Liu fails to disclose detecting a double feed. Thus, the resulting combination of the applied references would fail to achieve the same result as the present disclosure (i.e. detecting double feed by locating sampling points in a first and second dimension).

Therefore, the combination of Liu and Laskowski fails to disclose or render obvious the combination of features recited by claim 1, and the similar features recited by claim 9. Therefore, claims 1 and 9 are patentable over the applied combination. Claims 2-8 and 10-19 are also patentable for at least their various dependencies from claim 1 or claim 9 as well as for the additional features they recite.

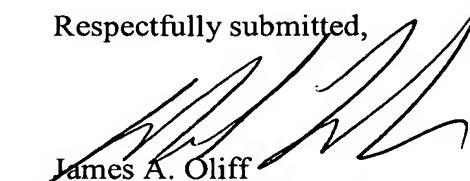
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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